



October 2022

Director's Cut
Eden Hendrick, Executive Director



WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL

A QUICK AND INFORMATIVE SNAPSHOT OF WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND THE SC DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE! WE WELCOME ALL STORY IDEAS, PHOTOS, AND ANY INFORMATION YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE AGENCY.
EMAIL: publicinformation@djj.sc.gov

Resilience the ability to overcome adversity, adjust and recover from challenging life experiences. Our staff and our youth show us their resilient nature every day. The events on October 18th at the Broad River Road Complex campus (BRRC) challenged that resilience and were difficult for not only the youth and staff present, but also for family members and other DJJ staff around the state concerned for their colleagues and youth.

Even in the most stressful situations, like the one on October 18th, I saw a strength, spirit and adaptability that make me proud to work for DJJ. And I now see teamwork and a refocus on the mission and vision of this agency, and a commitment to the values that we all share to inspire and transform young lives. I see resilience, from both staff and youth and I know we will also use this an opportunity to continue to improve and create a safe and well-run BRRC.

Connected to this, the safety and security of the staff and youth at every facility and location is always top priority. As I mentioned in my agency-wide email on October 19th, we have already begun working with our law enforcement partners to provide enhanced security measures at BRRC and all campuses. Also beginning next month, we have a team of juvenile justice professionals coming into BRRC to implement a new behavior management system and re-structure what we have now into a system that has proven results in facilities nationally.

This will include outside practitioners who have worked inside facilities being embedded with our staff for actual on-the-job training, coaching, and mentoring. Once this is in place at BRRC, we would like to roll it out to all facilities. We are also in the process of implementing our Rapid Response Team, staff who will be trained by national experts in de-escalation and security in juvenile facilities.

And finally, construction has begun on the security upgrades for the dorms at BRRC, which include building locking doors to each youth's individual room. We also are initiating an emergency capital project to add security measures to our other secure facilities.

These changes will not take place overnight, but this is the beginning of the path to achieve a safe and secure environment as well as providing effective rehabilitative services to our youth. Both can happen at the same time if we are focused and resilient in the face of challenge.

More updates will continue as we progress. Thank you all for your dedication, hard work and resilience to serve our youth.



National Night Out

The Florence County DJJ office took part in the county's National Night Out event, sponsored by the Florence County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff TJ Joye (middle of first picture) thanked the office for their support! #TeamSCDJJ #CommunityOutreach #NationalNightOut





Super Service Saturdays

At BRRC, Volunteer Services was excited to bring back a program to DJJ -- Super Service Saturdays. We connected with share ONE love and students from USC who played a game of kickball, with 15 youth, volunteers, and DJJ staff.

The field was filled with laughs, healthy competition, and a desire wanting to know when the next event would be. THANK YOU for connecting with us in meaningful ways in support of us touching lives and transforming communities.

Have a program in mind? If you are interested in joining and learning more about Volunteer Services and programs, email volunteerservices@djj.sc.gov or call 803.896.9400! #VolunteerSCDJJ #TeamSCDJJ #VolunteersTransform



Walk for Freedom

SCDJJ employees in the upstate took part in the Walk for Freedom event in Greenville, which also takes place around the globe on Oct. 15. This one is sponsored by the Upstate Human Trafficking Task Force. Jane Olson, DJJ Upstate Regional Special Needs Coordinator, and Crystal Noble, DJJ Greenville County Director, showed their support along with Agathe Katsaros, Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Mental Health Center and a great sister agency partner with DJJ. Way to go ladies! #TeamSCDJJ #StopHumanTraffic

Greenville County Director , Agathe Katsaros, Anderson, Oconee & Pickens Mental Health Center



Williamsburg County

International Dot Day

The staff at the Williamsburg County DJJ office observed International Dot Day today as did our local Elementary School!



Boys & Girls Club - Hemingway

County Director Carrice Watkins, visited the Rick and Susan Goings Boys and Girls Club in Hemingway and interacted with two beautiful young entrepreneurs for their Jewelry and Bake Sale event.



County Director Carrice Watkins

American Red Cross Blood Drive

The recent American Red Cross blood drive at the Broad River Road Complex was a success as numerous donors gave the gift of life to others! Thank you to all who came out and to the American Red Cross for partnering with us. #TeamSCDJJ



County Manager Keshia Elmore and her team



Lexington County

Victim Services Manager - Angela Kelly

Ken McKenzie



Central Office

Volunteer

Rene Sharkey



Central Office

Mason Harrington



Central Office

MEC Carnival

The MEC Carnival was a huge success with over 42 youth with staff present! They enjoyed water balloons, grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, concession stand treats, games, and each got a gift bag full of toiletries.

Way to go MEC staff who made this possible!

#TeamSCDJJ

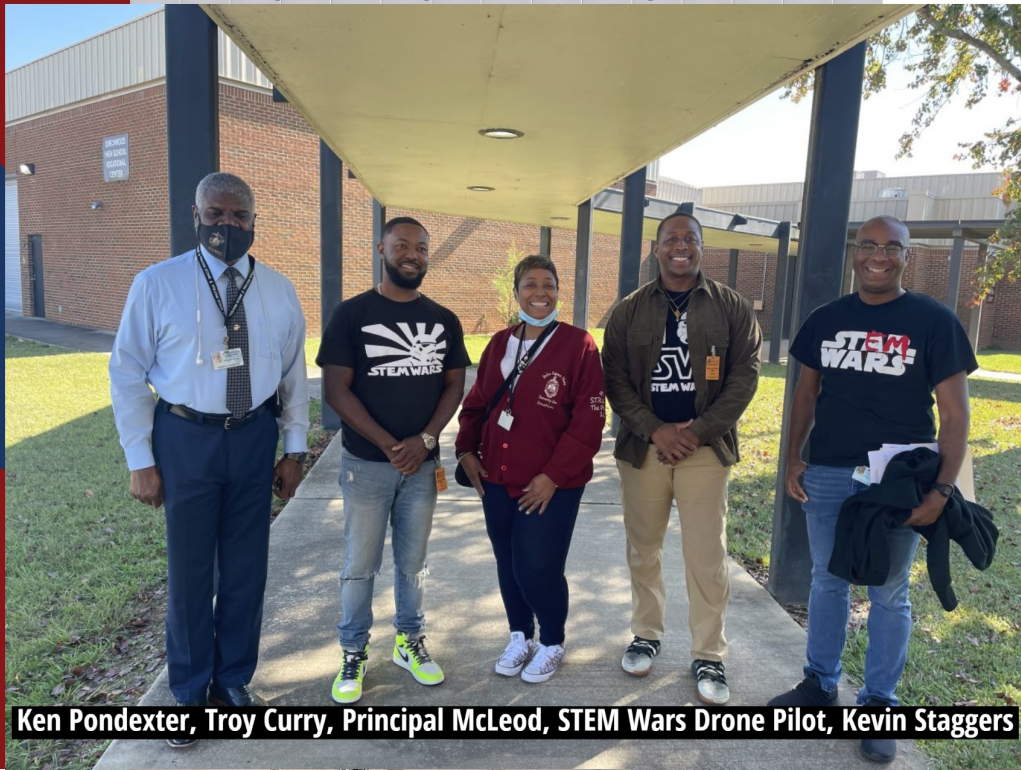


Assistant Facility Manager - James Smith



STEM Wars Day

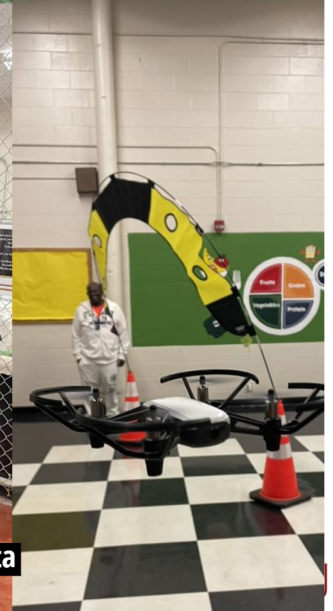
Stem Wars CEO Troy Curry and several Team DJJ employees worked extremely hard to make a huge impact on our DJJ BRC youth by educating them on several courses all taught in different break out rooms including, Drones and Engineering, Robotics and Coding, Music Production, Financial Literacy, Entrepreneurship, and Career Exploration.



Ken Pondexter, Troy Curry, Principal McLeod, STEM Wars Drone Pilot, Kevin Staggers



Troy Curry & Angela Latta



Voorhees University

Sixteen youth at the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice started classes for the first time with us at Voorhees University. This opportunity will allow Voorhees to embrace and uplift the ambitions of these often forgotten citizens and greatly assist them in developing clear pathways to successful, productive careers. Kudos to these youth as they embark on their Next Level of Excellence. Special thanks to the education team who works to ensure this program is successful!

Voorhees University Partners and BRRC Team



Forklift Certification

One of our youth at BRRRC recently scored a 98% on his written forklift exam and worked on sharpening his driving skills. The youth's instructor, Mr. Shannon, focused on safety, maintaining the appropriate speeds, lifting light and heavy loads, and proper vehicle inspection checks. Youth scored a 97% on his driving portion of the test. The youth shared that upon his release, he will have employment in this field. He is eager and motivated to complete this certification prior to his release date! #TeamSCDJJ #ForkliftOperator

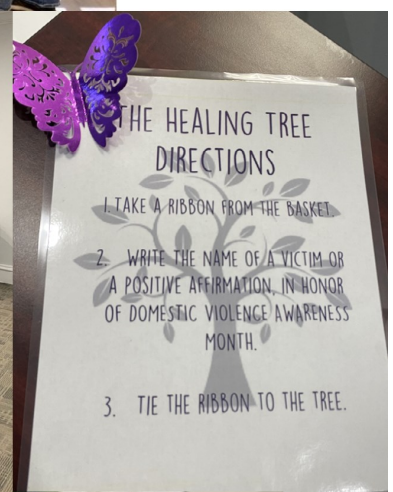


Superintendant Lyles, Youth, Mr. Shannon



Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and SCDJJ employees all around the state wore purple in support of DV awareness!



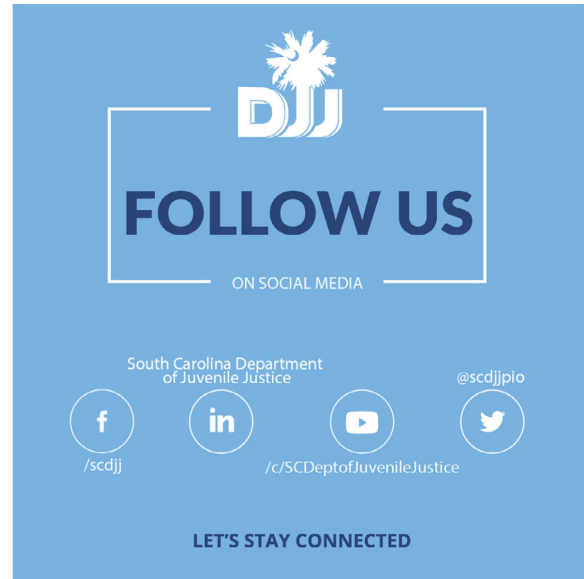
Breast Cancer Awareness Day

SCDJJ Employees showed their support for Breast Cancer Awareness on Thursday, October 13 by wearing pink to their workplace. Employees at BRRRC, QI at Central and DJJ county offices in Cherokee, Clarendon and Florence among others took part! #TeamSCDJJ #breastcancerawareness



Stay Connected

Follow us on all social media platforms



MISSION

To impact and transform young lives, strengthen families, and support safer communities through targeted prevention and rehabilitation.

VISION

Youth discover their strengths and abilities and become productive and successful citizens contributing to a safer South Carolina.

VALUES

Integrity—We are honest and transparent in our work and we are accountable for what we do and say.

Loyalty—We are all DJJ: Loyalty is our commitment to the youth and the agency at which we work.

Diversity—Each employee brings a viewpoint and can make a difference; working together, we can all make change.

Respect—There is always 'respect' built in every interaction with youth, their families, the public and between employees.

Compassion—Belief in our youth means showing them care and genuine concern every day.

